

- III. Claims 23 to 35;
- IV. Claims 36 to 48;
- V. Claims 49 to 71; and
- VI. Claims 72 to 96.

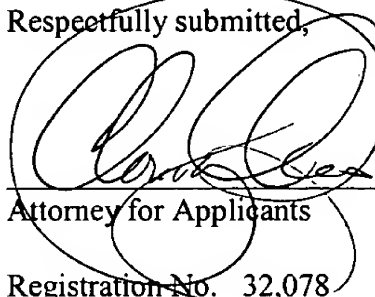
In response, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute the subject matter of Group II (Claims 12 to 22) in the present application. Applicants reserve all rights to the subject matter recited in non-elected Claims 1 to 11 and 23 to 96.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement. Without conceding the Examiner's characterization of the claimed invention, Applicants believe that the claimed inventions are sufficiently related that a thorough search of the art relevant to Group II will require substantial consideration of the art relevant to Groups I and III to VI. Separate search and examination by separate Examiners will require duplicate work and may lead to inconsistent results. Accordingly, Applicants submit that it would be administratively and economically preferable to search and examine all of the claims together, and request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and that all pending claims be examined in the present application.

Applicants believe that the present paper is fully responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and consideration on the merits of all pending claims at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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